

Firefighter HAZMAT Medical Examination

This examination is a mandatory Cal/OSHA requirement for firefighters assigned to a HAZMAT station, or who are HAZMAT certified and may work at a HAZMAT station on an overtime basis. The examination is commonly combined with the Fitness-for-Life Wellness medical as many of the testing components are the same. However, a specialized HAZMAT medical questionnaire and certain tests are required, rather than optional.

The most important difference, however, is that a HAZMAT examination is a work-fitness evaluation. This means that your medical history and test results will be reviewed by a CEO Occupational Health physician to determine your ability to safely and effectively perform HAZMAT duties. The vast majority of examinees are found to be "fit", but work restrictions that would preclude assignment to HAZMAT duties are possible. These typically result from concerns about chronic disease in key organ systems (lungs, kidneys, and liver) that are susceptible to damage from chemical exposures.

A HAZMAT examination is required by Cal/OSHA prior to assignment (or overtime work) at a HAZMAT station, and thereafter, once every two years while you are still assigned to, or working overtime at a HAZMAT station. It is also available at any time (on a voluntary basis), if you become ill due to possible overexposure to hazardous substances.